

**A CORRELATIONAL STUDY BETWEEN THE STUDENTS' INTEREST
IN LISTENING TO WESTLIFE SONGS AND THEIR UNDERSTANDING
OF THE SONGS : A CASE STUDY OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
STUDENTS OF MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**



RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department

by

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2009

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

English is one of foreign languages in Indonesia, which is taught in Indonesia from elementary school until university. Due to the important of English, the Indonesian government adopts English as the first foreign language in Indonesia. Consequently, most of the books about science and technology are still written in English. In this case the use of English is clearly needed as a means of communication with other countries in the world, not only in science and technology but also in other aspects of life such as culture, tourism, education, commercial, business, and politics.

A number of people are interested in mastering English well, especially the students. Recently, a lot of English department students especially in UMS use several methods to be able to learn it quickly. One of the techniques is listening to English songs through CD, cassettes, TV, and radio.

Nowadays, many western songs circulated in Indonesia are recorded in the form of CD or Cassettes. Many people prefer listening to English songs rather listening to Indonesian songs especially for learners because they assume that English songs are more popular than Indonesian songs. A large number of students use English songs as strategies in learning English; they listen to it as a daily habit

while doing some activities either at home or anywhere they listen to it. To know the meaning of English song students usually look up the dictionary; then, they memorize the words from the lyrics of English songs.

Many people memorize the lyrics of English songs as a means to improve their ability of listening comprehension because it is slowly pronounced; in addition they can learn pronunciation.

In this research the writer focuses on Westlife songs as a means to test the students in understanding the songs, because Westlife songs are very popular in Indonesia since several years ago. In addition, the content and sentences of Westlife songs are easy to understand. Moreover, they can listen to Westlife songs easily; they can listen to them through mass media, such as TV, radio, cassettes or CD

Songs are satisfying art forms, the lyrics fit the music, the music fits the lyrics, and together they form a complete unit. Music and song can also touch the emotional sensitivity or other strong emotion of the people. Music and rhythm that build up a song are highly memorable and make the songs and their words much easier to understand their contents. Students will often recite the words of the song while singing it. So, the students unconsciously understand the content of the songs. It will eventually develop their active understanding of the songs.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is motivated to write a research paper entitled: A Correlational study between the student's Interest in Listening to Westlife Songs and their understanding of the songs A case study of English Department's students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

B. Previous Study

The writer finds three of the previous studies related with songs in research. The first research conducted by Ernawati, (UMS, 2004). Her research is entitled Developing Students' vocabulary by Using Songs in SD N 1 Sragen. Her research is about teaching learning process by using games, and songs. The result of her research shows that teaching English using songs is effective to teach listening for Elementary school students.

The second research is conducted by Suyanto, (UNS, 2003). Her research is entitled A Correlational Study between the Habit of Listening to Classical Songs and Translation Ability of the Second Semester of English Department of 11 Maret University of Surakarta. His research shows that the students having a great interest in listening to Classical songs make their translation ability increase.

The third research is conducted by Roni, (UMS, 2008). His research is entitled An Analysis of Code Mixing in Project Pop Songs. His research shows that Project Pop songs consist of code mixing in composition of the songs.

Based on the three researches above the writer finds the similarity of the research carried out by the writer, the similarity is that they use songs as a media in the research. There are some differences of the researches above with the research done by the writer. The first research focuses on improving vocabulary by using songs. The second research focus on relationship between the habit of listening to

English songs and translation ability. The writer focuses on the correlation of the student's interest in listening to Westlife songs and their understanding of the songs.

C. Limitation of the Problem

This study has a broad scope and it is impossible for the writer to handle all of the problems that may arise. The writer focuses on the analysis on the relationship between the students' interest in listening to Westlife songs and their understanding of the songs. It includes how far the learners can memorize the lyrics and understand the content of the songs. Subject of this research is the students' interest in listening to Westlife songs, and the object of the research is their understanding of the songs.

D. Problem Statement

The problem that the writer wants to solve in this study is "is there any positive correlation between the students' interest in listening to Westlife songs and their understanding of the songs of the English Department Students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta?"

E Objective of the Study

The objective study of this research is to find out whether the students' interest in listening to Westlife songs is positively correlated to their understanding of the song of the third semester students of English Department students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

F. Benefit of the Study

Theoretically, the study can be used to clarify the factors that influence listening comprehension. The result of this research may help the teacher to consider what he can do to enrich the students' interest in listening to English songs to make the students' listening comprehension better.

For the teacher of foreign language especially English, this study can be a good example to modify the old methods in teaching listening this study is also useful for the students.

G. Research Paper Organization

This research paper consists of five chapters. Chapter I is introduction it consists of six sub-chapters. The first, background of the study, it contains the reason why the writer chooses the topic of the research. The second, previous study, it contains a number of the previous studies related with the research done by the writer. The third, limitation of the problem. The fourth, problem statement, it contains what problem will be figured out by the writer. And the fifth, objective of the study, it contains the purpose of the research. The last, benefit of the study, it contains the benefits of the research for the teachers and learners.

Chapter II is underlying theory. It consists of four sub – chapters. The first, review on the interest in listening to English songs. It explains about the definition of interest in listening to English songs, how to know someone interest,

and the advantages of listening to English songs. The second sub – chapters is review on listening comprehension. It explains about the definition of listening comprehension, significance of listening, nature of listening, the process of listening comprehension, and the strategies of listening comprehension. The third sub – chapter is rationale. And the last sub – chapter is hypothesis; it contains the idea of the writer about the result of the research.

Chapter III dealing with research method. In research method consist of six sub – chapters. The first, type of the research, it contains what type used in the research. The second, place and time of the research. The third, subject and object of the research. the fourth, data and source of data It deals with what data used in the research. And number five is method of collecting data, and the last is technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is research finding discussion and implication. Research finding consists of two explanations they are; result of instrument validity, and result of analysis. Discussion explains about the result of the research. Implication explains about what the writer implies after conducting research.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. It contains of conclusion, and suggestion of the writer on the research.